

Blue Ridge Area Meeting Minutes

Date/ Time: Wednesday July 24, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Location: Roanoke, VA

Presiding: Christy Kerr Blue Ridge Area Vice President

Roll

Matt Rider, Elizabeth Lam, Herb Hoffeditz, Janae Pettit, Cindy Vance, Ashley Abbott, Cole Ramsey, Jen Neil, Amanda Ashton, and Christy Kerr

Agenda Items:

- Advisory Council Update
- FFA Board of Directors Update
- Setting Fall and Spring Dates
- Area Bank Account
- Area Officers
- Rally

Minutes from previous meeting

Elizabeth Lam moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as written. Jen Neil seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Balance at hand at the beginning of the reporting period (June 2018): \$1959

Receipts: Over \$2,000 from dues and registration

Disbursements: \$150 to National Convention Teams (\$25/team), \$1,037 for Rally Supplies

Current Balance: \$2,929

Introduction of New Teachers: Kristin Horn-Rockingham County, Hannah Campbell-Rockingham County, Mackenzie Moore-Augusta County

Advisory Council Update-Cole Ramsey

There is an open spot that needs to be filled. Brian Alexander came in to discuss terms. Terms will be 2 years in length. The terms will end in alternating years. Cole Ramsey's term will end in July 2020 and will continue to end in even years. The other term will end in July 2021 and will continue to end in odd years. Matt Rider nominated Blair Hoffman for the second advisory council position and Cole Ramsey nominated Elizabeth Eastep for the position. A paper ballot vote was taken and counted. Blair Hoffman was voted to serve as the second Advisory Council member and her term will end in July 2021.

FFA Board of Directors Update-Cindy Vance

-The state fair activities and competitions are on the website.

-Executive Secretary Position: An email was sent out about this, but interviews will begin August 7 and they hope to have an offer by September 6. The position will have a team with staff members from extension. Brian Alexander did not know how many people this team would consist of, but it will be at least one. Allison Sutphin was hired in a temporary position for the summer to help with FFA things.

-Dr. Rutherford sent out an email with the links to watch 2 interviews for faculty positions in the Department of Agriculture, Leadership, and Community Education. Teachers are encouraged to provide their input.

-National Convention: The hotel will be the Wyndham by the Airport-rooms are \$225-\$250/night. Checks will be given out to state winning individuals/teams after convention.

-Big E: There will be 2 state sponsored busses which will be free through Sunshine bus line. The hotel will be the Clarion, which has a waterpark attached to it. Andy believes the cost of the waterpark is \$10.

-Virginia Tech has a list of approved bus lines that have adequate insurance

-VA FFA Membership has increased over the past year and therefore the number of delegates to the National Convention has increased

Brian Alexander

-Brian came in to discuss a situation in which a letter was sent out by a few former state officers about concerns with the current state of Virginia FFA. Brian stressed the importance of going through the proper channels if you have concerns. Please talk to Advisory Council members or Board of Directors members if you have concerns so they may bring them up.

-Dr. Jones wants to support us and wants extension to work with us

VAAE Positions:

-Both Christy Kerr and Amanda Ashton have one year left in their 2-year terms. Our area will have President Elect next year.

Fall and Spring Dates:

-Fall Meeting: November 7-Broadway High School-5pm

-Spring Meeting: February 20-Buffalo Gap High School-5pm

-COLT Conference: September 24-Buffalo Gap High School-4:30 PM

-Area Rally: March 10-Blue Ridge Community College. The snow date will be March 12 at FDHS at 4:00 PM and will only be Contests. Blue Ridge is booked the rest of that week.

-Area Forestry: October 17-Hosted by Broadway and J. Frank Hillyard

-Tractor Troubleshooting: August 29-Highland-1:00 PM (pending approval from Mr. Heavner)

Blue Ridge Area Bank Account

-Janae moved to postpone discussing endowments for state plaques until the fall meeting. Jen seconded it and the motion passed.

-We will continue to do area plaques for this coming year

-There was discussion about giving money to state winning teams going to National Convention. Janae moved to give each chapter who is registering a state winning team and/or individual at National Convention including Agriscience Fair \$25. The motion was seconded and passed.

Area Officers-Cole

-Cole is looking for input on what we would like area officers to do besides lead COLT and Area Rally. There was discussion about if area officers are really needed and how a challenge for area officers and advisors is communication and working together since they are so spread out. Matt suggested using video meetings through a platform such as Zoom. Janae mentioned that in Rockingham County video hangout platforms are blocked from student accounts so it would have to be done through a teacher's account. We will continue with the current area officers running COLT and rally this year, but at the fall meeting we will discuss the future of area officers for the 2020-2021 school year.

State Degrees and Proficiencies Help Session

Christy asked if it would be beneficial to have a help session for advisors at Area Rally for State Degrees and Proficiency Awards. This was something that was done in the past. It was mentioned that it may be more beneficial to have people we can contact to share our applications with and get feedback. We will discuss this more at the fall meeting.

Attendance at Area Meetings

We discussed the low attendance at area meetings and what incentives we can have to increase attendance. Food and door prizes were mentioned as incentives. The possibility of getting professional development points was also brought up. Elizabeth said if you go through your principal you may be able to get points. Janae is going to email LaVeta to see if we are able to get professional development points for our meetings.

Contests at Area Rally

Public Speaking-Janae-would like to be in the library again
Small Engines-Herb
Tractor Operators-Ryan Crickenberger

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM. The next meeting will be held November 7 at 5:00 PM at Broadway High School.